

**California Arts Council
2017-2018 Veterans in the Arts
Project Descriptions**

The Veterans in the Arts (formerly Veterans Initiative in the Arts) program is rooted in the California Arts Council's desire to address the needs and improve the lives of California's veterans through the arts. The program seeks to increase equity, access, and opportunities for veterans to participate in quality arts programming that is sensitive and responsive to their unique experiences. Grants support projects by nonprofit arts organizations, local arts agencies, and veteran's assistance agencies to reach veterans, active military, and their families. Learn more at

<http://arts.ca.gov/programs/via.php>.

Number of Grants Awarded: 34 | Total Investment: \$456,037

Application ID, Organization, County, Grant Award Amount	Project Description
VIA-17-2358 Advaita Society <i>Alameda County</i> \$18,000	With support from the California Arts Council, Kala Art Institute (ADVAITA SOCIETY) will provide new veteran art residency and exhibition opportunities for up to six veteran artists to come to Kala for a one to six month residency, with 24/7 access to Kala's printmaking workshop and media center, technical support, a culminating exhibition as a cohort in the Kala gallery, and resources to design and lead workshops for other veterans and for the general public.
VIA-17-2584 The Aja Project <i>San Diego County</i> \$11,392	With support from the California Arts Council, The Aja Project, in partnership with the San Diego Military Families Collaborative, will provide an additional year of innovative photography based programming to youth in military families at Farb Middle School and Serra High School in San Diego. The "Through my Lens" project will support students to process experiences, reclaim narrative and advocate for community change through the arts, while also providing artist mentorship opportunities.
VIA-17-2341 Alameda County Arts Commission <i>Alameda County</i> \$16,200	With California Arts Council support, the Alameda County Arts Commission will present "Creative Veterans" with partnering veterans service agencies to provide veterans with a series of art workshops developed in collaboration with Veterans and Veterans counselors. The goals are to provide Veterans with opportunities to express themselves in a supportive environment, develop art skills, and engage in community building. The project will include exhibits at veteran service and civic venues.

VIA-17-1668 Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County <i>Contra Costa County</i> \$8,800	With support from the California Arts Council, the Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (AC5) and the County Veterans Service Office will engage Veterans in artistic endeavors to gain confidence and enhance their creativity by creating self-portrait paintings. Veterans play an active role in determining their pathways to wellness! Portraits will be displayed in libraries throughout the County. Six painting workshops will be offered. Each workshop offers two, 3-hour painting sessions.
VIA-17-2587 Arts Council for Monterey County <i>Monterey County</i> \$13,500	With support from the California Arts Council, ARTS COUNCIL FOR MONTEREY COUNTY will develop creative mastery and strengthen identity, communication and behavior for struggling veterans at risk of homelessness in partnership with Veterans Transition Center. Under the general direction of the award-winning Arts as Healing Intervention specialist Linda Pedrazzini Hevern, our teaching artist staff will lead veterans to create an exhibition and mural project they will celebrate with our community.
VIA-17-2119 Arts For Learning San Diego <i>San Diego County</i> \$9,529	With support from the California Arts Council, Arts for Learning San Diego will bring the arts to the families of active duty military, allowing them to spend quality time together engaging in activities that are enriching. Military Arts Connection includes a 30-minute performance, followed by a 50-minute interactive workshop for the whole family.
VIA-17-2151 Blue Line Arts <i>Placer County</i> \$16,200	With support from the California Arts Council, BLUE LINE ARTS will partner with the Women Veterans Alliance to host a series of art workshops for veterans, that will include the creation of a public art installation in downtown Roseville. The women veterans community will be invited to explore parts of themselves and emotions connected to their time in the service, through the creation of ceramic masks. An art therapist will engage with veteran artists in the workshops.
VIA-17-2080 California Ballet Association Inc <i>San Diego County</i> \$14,376	With the support from the California Arts Council, California Ballet Association Inc will provide 4,000-6,000 tickets to veterans, retired & active military members for 2018's The Nutcracker. CBC will partner with military service organizations to develop extra relevant programming by offering dance classes, and the opportunity to experience the life of a dancer from audition to performance. Funds will underwrite engagement activities, a portion of donated tickets & administrative expenses.
VIA-17-2346 CRE Outreach Foundation Inc <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$18,000	With support from the California Arts Council, CRE Outreach will produce two original plays written and performed by military veterans through our yearlong program, Veterans Empowerment Theatre. Participants will be recruited through a partnership with the Beverly Hills/Hollywood branch of the NAACP. Participants are selected based on their interest in using creative expression as an outlet for telling their experience with the military.
VIA-17-1992 Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness <i>Del Norte County</i> \$13,500	With support from the California Arts Council, the Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness will continue offering free-of-charge arts workshops to our community's veterans & their families including: guitar, drum circles, varied media in visual arts, & creative writing. We will also provide them complimentary tickets for our quality, multi-cultural performance series.

VIA-17-2721 Diavolo Dance Theatre <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$16,200	With support from the California Arts Council, DIAVOLO will develop and present "The Veterans Project: 2018", a free community dance program for Los Angeles-based veterans with the goal of fostering veteran's creative expression, increasing veterans' active arts participation, and enhancing the public's understanding of veterans' experiences. Workshops will culminate in a custom-choreographed community show, featuring DIAVOLO dancers performing side-by-side with veteran participants.
VIA-17-2600 El Dorado Arts Council <i>El Dorado County</i> \$14,400	With support from the California Arts Council, El Dorado Arts Council (EDAC) will continue its Veterans' Voices Writing Workshop (VVWW) program, a 32-week creative writing program for veterans from any branch of service. New for 2018-19, EDAC will establish a VVWW program in South Lake Tahoe, a diverse but isolated community with a veteran population of about 1,200.
VIA-17-2494 Ford Theatre Foundation <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$16,200	With support from the California Arts Council, FORD THEATRE FOUNDATION (FTF) will present two shows: SOLDIER SONGS, with LA Opera and Beth Morrison Projects, and THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY PROJECT with artist Arianne MacBean. The project will include related interactive community workshops with select veterans to develop material for the Memory Project, panel discussions with artist-veterans, and over 300 free and low-cost tickets made available to local veterans, active military and their families.
VIA-17-2580 The Foundation for Santa Barbara City College <i>Santa Barbara County</i> \$10,648	With support from the California Arts Council, THE FOUNDATION FOR SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE/THE ATKINSON GALLERY AT SBCC will partner with the SBCC VETERANS SUPPORT and RESOURCE CENTER to increase the enrollment, retention, and academic success of veterans and their dependents at SBCC by helping to establish a campus cohort through arts learning activities, including the development of visual literacy skills and self-expression in both visual and written form.
VIA-17-2592 Geffen Playhouse Inc <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$16,200	With support from the California Arts Council, the Geffen Playhouse will encourage and support arts learning and the artistic expression of veterans through our Veterans Writing and Performance Project. The 4-month intensive is designed to help military veterans write and perform their own stories as personal monologues on our stage, not only to help them heal and connect with each other, but to also build bridges and new levels of understanding, appreciation and support from the general public.
VIA-17-2169 Homes for Families <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$16,200	With support from the California Arts Council, Homes 4 Families will continue to develop and conduct trauma-informed art workshops to help veterans, military spouses, and their families face, overcome, and manage the struggles that come with the military experience. We will also engage and educate the greater community on the often stigmatized veteran-specific invisible wounds of war such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Military Sexual Trauma.

VIA-17-2397 The Imagination Workshop Inc <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$10,500	With the support from CAC, The Imagination Workshop Inc. will conduct twenty weekly ninety-minute theatre workshops with 20 homeless veterans at New Directions for Vets at the VA in Los Angeles, culminating in the production of an original theater work, written and acted by the homeless veterans under the direction and mentoring of Imagination Workshop professional theatre artists, professionally mounted in a Los Angeles professional theatre venue for the general public for two performances.
VIA-17-2638 Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego <i>San Diego County</i> \$9,900	With support from the California Arts Council, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego will implement ArtOASIS, an arts program supporting the recovery of active military personnel from the symptoms of combat-related stress. The partnership joins MCASD with Combat Arts San Diego and the Naval Medical Center San Diego. ArtOASIS will serve 75 to 100 troops in the OASIS program through weekly art-making sessions on base, visits to the Museum galleries, and as exhibition of artwork by participants.
VIA-17-2446 Old Globe Theatre <i>San Diego County</i> \$18,000	With support from the California Arts Council, The Old Globe's Technical Center Apprenticeship Program will offer paid training opportunities for veterans, active military re-entering civilian life, and their spouses. During the grant period, apprenticeship positions will be provided for up four participants, each training for a minimum of 8-10 weeks. The Globe will work with Veterans Village of San Diego and other local military partners to identify and recruit new apprentices.
VIA-17-2056 Opera San Jose Incorporated <i>Santa Clara County</i> \$3,000	With support from the California Arts Council, OPERA SAN JOSE INCORPORATED will present a series of concerts performed by the OSJ Military Veterans Chorus during the 2018-19 season, including performances at Veteran retirement homes, VA Hospitals, the USS Hornet, Veterans and Armistice day events, and a concert to raise funds for the nonprofit organization Destination Home, benefiting homeless veterans.
VIA-17-2724 Outside the Lens <i>San Diego County</i> \$14,400	With support from the California Arts Council, Outside the Lens will deliver a free intergenerational digital storytelling program teaching the skills of documentary photography and filmmaking to active duty and retired military and their families. Using the process of digital storytelling, families connect to their own stories, bridging their unique narratives with the wider community around them through a public exhibition and sharing on digital platforms.
VIA-17-2571 Paso Robles Art Association <i>San Luis Obispo County</i> \$14,400	With support from the California Arts Council, PASO ROBLES ART ASSOCIATION will develop Veterans Voices, an immersive program with three ways to participate: as a veteran artist; as an artist mentoring a veteran; or as an artist interpreter, listening and learning from a veteran, turning their story, and their vision into art. The year-long multi-disciplinary program culminates in a month-long exhibition.
VIA-17-2674 The PGK Project Inc <i>San Diego County</i> \$14,400	With support from the California Arts Council, The PGK Dance Project will partner with the Veterans Museum, The Veterans Art Project, and the Westwind Brass Ensemble on the creation of an original work featuring spoken word, photography and "live" music by 3 Artists from these partners who are Veterans. This includes public events with the creative process, and 3 public performances between the partner sites. *Funds will compensate artists, support public activities, public performances.

VIA-17-1967 Putnam Foundation <i>San Diego County</i> \$10,800	With support from the California Arts Council, the Putnam Foundation (dba Timken Museum of Art) will engage active duty service members at San Diego Naval Medical Center in weekly Creative Engagement art classes. Through art, service members create a coherent narrative of experiences, placing intense memories and emotions in art that can be reinterpreted and integrated into their life. Using allegory and metaphor, they'll communicate thoughts and feelings often too difficult to convey in words.
VIA-17-2138 Resounding Joy Inc <i>San Diego County</i> \$16,200	With support from the California Arts Council, Resounding Joy will provide professional music therapy and supportive music services to service members and veterans in San Diego County.
VIA-17-2666 Sacramento Guitar Society <i>Sacramento County</i> \$4,592	With support from the California Arts Council, SACRAMENTO GUITAR SOCIETY (SGS) will offer private professional guitar lessons for up to 24 Veterans for 10 weeks by engaging with Guitars4Vets, a national nonprofit that currently provides Veterans basic lessons led by community volunteers (not necessarily professional guitar instructor). SGS will provide each graduate of Guitars4Vets a 1-year membership and 10 lesson vouchers redeemable thru SGS local professional guitar teachers.
VIA-17-2625 The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles Inc <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$18,000	With support from the California Arts Council, The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles will launch "Voices of the Warrior," a new program to engage veterans in creative exploration of Shakespeare's work as a tool for wellness and mental health, and to uplift and amplify veterans' voices in a public dialogue about the meaning and role of the warrior. The project supports SCLA's 2018 "Year of the Warrior," a season investigating the warrior/soldier as depicted in Shakespeare's plays.
VIA-17-2167 Siskiyou County Arts Council <i>Siskiyou County</i> \$9,000	With support from the California Arts Council, SISKIYOU COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL, in partnership with the county's Veterans Leadership Council, museum and office of education, will offer veterans and their families opportunities to recount and process their military experiences in a supportive environment, and present their stories through recorded oral histories, traveling performances, and a school program, all of which will help increase understanding and strengthen bonds within our communities.
VIA-17-2162 Sixth Street Photography Workshop <i>San Francisco County</i> \$16,200	With support from California Arts Council, Sixth Street Photography Workshop will work with veterans on individual photography projects. Advancing skills and understanding of the photographic arts, participants will explore conceptual choices and gain broad appreciation for photography. Intended as authentic expression emanating from a unique social context, technique and aesthetic quality will be emphasized. Working creatively in a group will provide therapeutic benefit and emotional support.

VIA-17-2573 So Say We All <i>San Diego County</i> \$16,200	With support from the California Arts Council, SO SAY WE ALL will provide veterans arts programming in 2018-2019 that achieves these objectives: 1) Mentor 25 veteran writers in creating stories; 2) Produce performances at 3 colleges; 3) Produce one storytelling showcase of LGBTQ veteran writers; 4) Produce 8 episodes of the Incoming radio/podcast series in partnership with NPR-affiliate KPBS to be aired regionally and nationally; 5) Produce at least 3 literature performances free to the public.
VIA-17-2447 Suarez Dance Theater <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$2,500	With support from the California Arts Council, Suarez Dance Theater will support: 1. Development of a series of twelve dance workshops and public event for female veterans participating in the Women's Program at the VA Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center (LAACC). 2. Provide on-going continuing education for VA clinicians leading Dance for Veterans classes.
VIA-17-2058 Veterans Memorial Center Inc <i>San Diego County</i> \$14,400	With support from the California Arts Council, The Veterans Museum at Balboa Park, in partnership with Westwind Brass, San Diego Dance Theater, and the San Diego Children's Choir will present four veteran/military themed performances utilizing veteran artists as performers, writers and behind the scenes support. The events will take place at Balboa Park Food Truck Friday (July 6th), VMBP Veterans Week in November, (Month of the Military Child Festival) in April, and Memorial Day weekend.
VIA-17-2568 Writers Guild Foundation <i>Los Angeles County</i> \$18,000	With support from the California Arts Council, WRITERS GUILD FOUNDATION will build upon its successful Veterans Writing Project, which instructs and inspires emerging writers with U.S. military backgrounds. We help veterans cultivate their writing skills and position them to gain access to the film and TV industry.
VIA-17-2546 Yuba County Sutter County Regional Arts Council <i>Yuba County</i> \$16,200	With support from the California Arts Council, Yuba Sutter Arts will create a series of ceramics workshops and events led by Veterans for Veterans who will learn hand building, slab building, coiling, slump/hump/drape molding, bowl making on a wheel, glazing techniques, bisque firing and finish firing. Veterans will decorate and glaze the objects and the project will include public events and sales of certain finished objects for the benefit of local Yuba Sutter Veterans organizations.